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### **Second Amendment Under Assault**

A gun tax. A bullet tax. A requirement that guns contain a chamber load A requirement that guns indicator. contain magazine disconnect а Α requirement mechanism. ammunition be "serialized". A ban on mail-order sales of ammunition. A ban on internet sales of ammunition. An increase in liability and burdens on gun shop owners.

These are merely a sampling of the seemingly endless line of bills proposed year in and year out by the liberal majority in Sacramento that seek to restrict and regulate the gun industry, and

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while each individual measure may seem innocuous enough, it is clear they are all part of a methodic and futile effort to rid the nation of all guns.

And rather than revealing their true intentions and simply proposing an outright abolishment of our Second Amendment, the anti-gun lobby tries to impose as many fees, taxes, mandates, regulations, requirements, hoops and hurdles as they can on gun owners, gun shops, gun shows, gun purchases and guns themselves, in the hopes that law-abiding citizens will eventually just throw their hands in the air and give up.

All these rules and regulations won't ever affect or prevent criminals from arming themselves – they will only deprive law-abiding citizens from exercising their constitutional right, whether for recreation or self-defense.

One of the latest, and most egregious, proposals is Assembly Bill 352, the so-called "microstamping" bill. It would require that the make, model, and serial number of handguns be engraved onto the interior surface of all handguns so that those identifiers are imprinted onto the cartridge case upon firing. Handguns that do not include their identifying information would be defined as "unsafe" and their manufacture, sale, and transfer would be a crime.

Sounds great, right? A criminal walks into a gun store, purchases a gun lawfully and with all the correct identification, goes on a shooting spree, police find the casing at the scene, trace the sale of the gun, and just like that, there's your suspect. Not exactly how things unfold in the real world.

In reality, this legislation actually has the potential to make law enforcement's job more difficult, as criminals can easily defeat this technology by simply filing or scratching away the surface of the firearm where the laser engraving has been placed. They will do this to avoid detection by law enforcement and for the same reason they deface the serial number on firearms, which has reportedly increased significantly in recent years.

Criminals will be able to confuse the police and send them on wild goose chases by simply throwing around at crime scenes expended cartridge casings from other firearms, which are widely available at shooting ranges all across California. In addition, the firing pin in one weapon could be replaced by another. This process could be used to frame someone, and as a result could introduce new grounds for reasonable doubt in criminal trials.

In fact, AB 352 is so misguided and rife with potential problems that even our liberal legislature could not bring itself to approve it, as the bill was narrowly defeated on the Assembly Floor. However, there is little doubt this proposal will resurface next year, and rest assured I will continue the fight to prevent the anti-gun lobby from chipping away at our Second Amendment freedoms.

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